* New Industrial Policy & other concessions for Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal was announced on 7.01.2003. Under this policy, various concessions have been allowed to industrial units, which include development of industrial infrastructure, excise and income-tax exemption and Central Capital Investment Subsidy.

* Transport Subsidy Scheme is an ongoing Scheme, which was introduced in 1971 and is valid upto 31.03.2007. This Scheme is , applicable to all the aforesaid States and Darjeeling District of West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. Under this Scheme subsidy ranging from 50 to 90 per cent is paid on the transportation cost of raw material and finished goods.

Effect of Tsunami on seafood exports

1557. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recent Tsunami has affected our sea food exports to other countries;

(b) whether any assessment of the extent of damage caused by Tsunami to our seafood has been made;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that the prices of shrimps, squids, crabsticks, Surimi, etc; have gone up by 40 per cent and thereby directly affected our sea food exports; and

(e) what steps the Ministry is taking to maintain the prices of sea food in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) It is too early to assess the impact of Tsunami on our sea-food exports.

(b) and (c) Approximately 68,000 traditional and mechanised boats; 2 lakh fishing nets; and 5700 hectares of aqua farms, among others, have been lost/damaged by Tsunami. Besides, Tsunami has rendered thousands . of fishermen homeless.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The price of all goods, including the seafood, is decided by demand and supply mechanism.